

Early Childhood Education and Care Services Census 2009 fact sheet

Limited hours care services

Introduction

Limited hours care services are licensed as centre-based care services under the *Child Care Act 2002* and generally provide education and care for up to 30 children at any one time for not more than 20 hours in a week.

At the time of Census 2009 there were 55 licensed limited hours care services operating in Queensland, equal to the number operating at the time of Census 2008. The Census 2009 response rate for limited hours care services was 95%.

Interpretation

Unless otherwise indicated, the comments, tables and charts in this fact sheet are based on the data provided by the 52 limited hours care services that responded to Census 2009. The percentages in tables and charts may not add to exactly 100% due to rounding. In any interpretation of the data, readers need to be aware of the voluntary nature of the survey, which ultimately influences the response rate, and that the information collected is based upon self-reporting by services. There has not been an attempt made to estimate data from the services that did not respond to the census. As such, the numbers do not represent total

child care provision. However, given the relatively high response rate, percentages are indicative of limited hours care provision in Queensland.

Management of limited hours care services

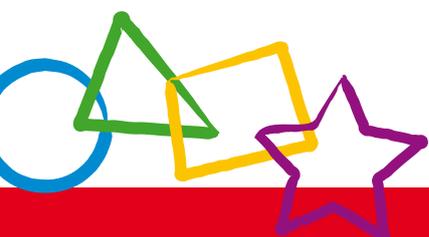
The majority (85%) of the limited hours care services that responded to Census 2009 indicated that they were community managed. The remaining 15% of limited hours care services indicated that they were government managed.

Fees

The fees charged by limited hours care services per day vary according to the age of the children receiving care. Table 1 shows the number of services charging fees by different age groups. Of those services that provided information on fees in Census 2009, the majority services charged a daily rate of \$20.00 to \$29.99. A number of long day care services do not provide places for babies under 15 months of age. These services are categorised as 'not applicable' and have been excluded for the purposes of calculating percentages for fees per day.

Table 1. Daily fees charged by limited hours care services by age group

Fees per day	Under 15 months		15 months to less than 3.5 years		3.5 years to less than 4.5 years		4.5 years or more	
	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal	No.	% of subtotal
Less than \$20	0	0	3	7	4	9	3	7
\$20 to \$29.99	23	68	30	67	32	70	29	69
\$30 to \$39.99	10	29	11	24	9	20	9	21
\$40 to \$49.99	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	2
\$50 to \$59.99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$60 to \$69.99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than \$70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	34	100	45	100	46	100	42	100
Not applicable/not stated	18	35	7	13	6	12	10	19
Total services	52	100	52	100	52	100	52	100

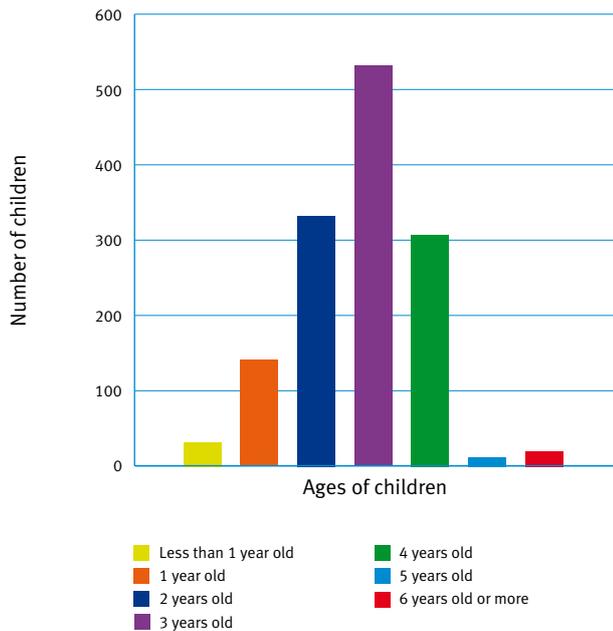


Children attending limited hours care services

The limited hours care services that responded to Census 2009 reported that 1365 children attended their services during the reference period.

Figure 1 illustrates that the majority of these children were between 2 and 4 years of age. Approximately 39% of children attending a limited hours care service during the reference period were 3 years old, 24% were 2 years old, and 22% were 4 years old.

Figure 1. Children attending limited hours care services by age



Vacancies

Of the 52 limited hours care services that responded to Census 2009, 31 (60%) indicated that they had vacancies, with a combined total of 360 vacant places.

Location of limited hours care services

In 2009, the majority of the 55 licensed limited hours care services operating in Queensland were located in regional and remote areas (80%), where 40% of Queensland's population resided (Table 2). The remainder of limited hours care services were located in the major cities of Queensland.

Table 2. Geographic distribution of limited hours care services

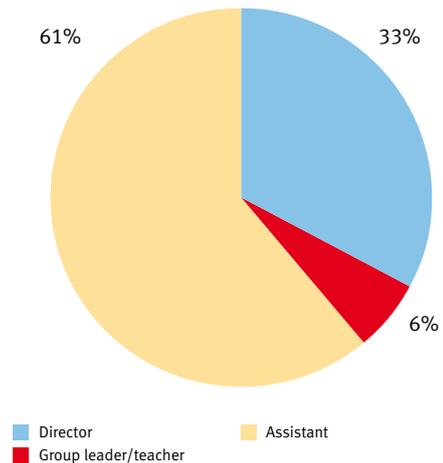
Geographic distribution	Number of services	Percentage of services	Queensland population distribution
Major cities	11	20%	60%
Regional areas	25	45%	37%
Remote areas	19	35%	3%
Total	55	100%	100%

Note: Queensland population distribution information is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2010, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008–09, Cat. no. 3218.0.

Staff

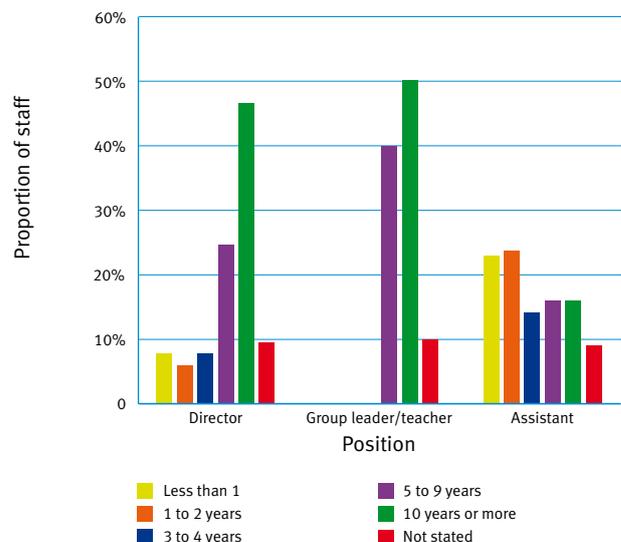
Limited hours care services responding to Census 2009 indicated that a total of 166 child care staff worked in their services during the reference period. The majority (61%) of these staff were child care assistants, 6% were group leaders or teachers, and 33% were directors (Figure 3). Services reported that there were also a total of 9 other staff working in their services during the reference period in administrative, ancillary and non-contact roles.

Figure 2. Child care staff working in limited hours care services by position



Limited hours care services responding to Census 2009 indicated that the majority of directors (46%) and group leaders/teachers (50%) working in their services during the reference period had worked in the early childhood education and care sector for ten years or more. They also indicated that the majority (24%) of assistants in their services had worked in the sector for one to two years (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Experience of limited hours care service staff by position



Staff holding approved qualifications

At the time of the census, approved qualifications for staff in licensed child care services were set down in *Child Care Regulation 2003* pertaining to the *Child Care Act 2002*. Under this legislation, staff engaged in a licensed child care service were required to hold or be working towards the qualifications prescribed.

The limited hours care services responding to Census 2009 indicated that 89% of directors, 70% of group leaders and teachers, and 64% of assistants working in their services during the reference period held approved qualifications for their position.

Of those staff working during the reference period who were not reported to hold the required qualifications (excluding not stated), 83% indicated that they were studying towards a qualification.

Early childhood education programs

Limited hours care services responding to Census 2009 indicated that of the 1365 children attending their services, approximately three out of five (60%) attended a group with an early childhood teacher. Early childhood teachers are those staff who are four year qualified early childhood teachers or are registered teachers with early childhood qualifications.

Limited hours care services responding to the census were asked to record the staff members' highest child care/early childhood education qualification, and whether their staff held full or provisional registration with the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT). Services indicated that 22 (13%) of their child care staff members held full or provisional registration with the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) (Table 3).

Table 3. Qualifications of Queensland College of Teachers registered and non-registered limited hours care staff

Highest level of qualification held in child care or early childhood education	Full/provisional QCT registration		Not QCT registered/not stated	
	No.	Proportion	No.	Proportion
Certificate III	2	9%	58	40%
Associate Diploma/Diploma	1	5%	27	19%
Advanced Diploma	0	0%	5	3%
Diploma /Bachelor (3 years)	2	9%	12	8%
Bachelor (4 years)	15	68%	1	1%
Postgraduate qualifications	1	5%	0	0%
Other approved qualifications	0	0%	5	3%
Other undergraduate qualifications	1	5%	0	0%
None/not yet started/not stated	0	0%	36	25%
Total	22	100%	144	100%

Provision of meals

Of the 52 limited hours care services that responded to the census, only three services indicated that they provided meals. Two services indicated that they provided afternoon tea for the children and one indicated they provided snacks.

Further information

Enquiries relating to statistics in this publication can be made by contacting the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care on (07) 3404 3401 or fax (07) 3234 0310.